

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

August 2020



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

I hope you are keeping well. This week (24.07.20) sees the introduction of wearing facemasks in shops and supermarkets, in addition to public transport. I have already started wearing mine and it makes me feel safer, although a little hot and it steams up my glasses a bit. But if it's going to keep us all safer then it's worth it.

We have been DIY'ing this weekend, and my knees are paying for it. We make quite a good team, with Mr R pasting the wall, and me hanging lining paper while he fiddles with the electrics. Today we are painting the wallpaper. Grey is the colour, with a white chimney breast. One step closer to a cosy lounge for winter, which without wishing summer away, feels like it will be here before we know it. I have sneaked off to write this page while Mr R continues painting the edges (he has far more patience than me, I am happier with the roller!).

Imogen (my youngest) has left primary school this week; without the normal festivities that normally occur but her school did a great job of making them feel special and saying goodbye. Letters of welcome and preparation have started coming from the secondary school and it is all feeling

rather exciting. Lots of changes have been made for the September start to keep all the children safe. Teachers and support staff have certainly had their work cut out over the last few months. I have some annual leave this week and so we are looking forward to some beach days and picnics round the District with the girls.

For those of you interested in the Hamilton Lodge site, there is an update in this issue. This month's cover features some of the stones which make up a Covid-19 Snake along St George's Church path, which is great fun for children (or adults) to get involved with. More on the next page.

There is also a tribute to Ann Fairley who sadly passed away in May. I met Ann in the last few years, through the work we did with the Poorlands Trust; she was a truly lovely lady, who was involved with the Bromleys from the moment she arrived back in 1966.

August brings us International Youth Day (12th), International Left Handers' Day (13th) and National Zoo Awareness Day (31st). Enjoy the summer, especially those who are now off school!

Take care, Lizzie

MATERIAL for the **SEPTEMBER 2020** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th AUGUST 2020** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

Copy can be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail (see inside back cover) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Bromley Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537
Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

Sponsorship for The Messenger

Your village magazine relies upon sponsorship and advertisements to come to your doors free each month. If you would like to sponsor an issue of The Messenger please contact Richard on 01206 230537 or email perrybr@btinternet.com for further details.

COVID-19 Snake

'Covid-19 Snake' is the brainchild of Loretta, a parent of children at the St George's School. Loretta asked Simon and myself if she could start the Snake along the Church path to the Church door.

We were delighted and thought it was a brilliant idea to involve our community during the lockdown. We haven't quite reached the Church doors yet but beautifully painted Pebbles appear every day.

Please have a go, let's see if we can reach the door!

Don't forget to use all weather paint or varnish as we've had some heavy downpours lately - I've had to repaint mine !!



Thank you

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

The late June and early July weather has alternated between extremes of rain and unusually strong sunshine. Keeping the greenhouses to an appropriate temperature has been problematic but all the vegetables and flowers have been growing well, although supplementary watering has been needed. The farming community are similarly affected as evidenced by the amount of irrigation being carried out locally.

I have been exhibiting at horticultural shows for the last 50 years and describe myself as an exhibitor who does a bit of gardening whilst Judy tries to ensure the garden is kept relatively tidy as well as being the one who exhibits the vegetables. Over the years I have exhibited carnations, chrysanthemums, dahlias, gladioli, sweet peas and a few general flowers. This year, as we expected, all the local shows have been cancelled, but that has not stopped us from growing as much as ever and we remain optimistic for next year.

Shows are held in the spring, summer and autumn. If I have blooms, I will enter the spring shows but do not purchase the comparatively expensive bulbs that are needed for serious competition. This is partly influenced by the fact that the timing of bulbs is so dependant on the weather and there is a very limited amount you can do to control timing. Another influence is that locally there are only 2 weekends for local spring shows.

Chrysanthemums and dahlias are more able to be influenced and there are usually 4 or more weekends over which shows are held through August and September, making it more likely that some of the blooms will be able to be shown. Dahlia timing can be influenced

by whether you retain and flower the central bud or one of its wing buds, or whether you take the top of the stem out entirely and flower on a lower shoot. If you are trying to get showable flowers over several weekends, you need to flower a variety of different sized buds to ensure a reasonable number of blooms from which to select each weekend.

When selecting vegetables for exhibition many, such as peas, beans, tomatoes and cucumbers are visible and can be selected on the plant. If anything needs to be matched for size, be it length or girth, it is possible to pick some a few days early and keep in the fridge waiting for others to reach the required size. Root crops such as carrots, parsnips and potatoes cause more of a problem. You only know what they are like after they have been harvested, whether slugs and other pests have been at work, or even careless harvesting has caused damage. A large harvest can be required for each show.

With exhibition produce size isn't everything. The Royal Horticultural Society and all the specialist societies issue judging rules and advice to exhibitors. More points are usually allocated for condition and uniformity than size. Competition can be intense.

I hope that some of you reading this and who have tried their hand at growing this year, will be encouraged to enter the local shows next year, which will be much needed to keep them alive, and even if you don't enter the show, try visiting for an interesting and educational afternoon out with the children or grandchildren. There is usually some good tea and cake on offer too!

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

As part of the gradual lifting of COVID 19 restrictions by HM Government, permission was given for village and community halls in England to open with effect from 4th July, subject to some limitations on use. Following a deep clean of the premises and the implementation of the findings of a COVID 19 risk assessment, our village hall opened again on 6th July for certain permitted activities. At the time of writing, the majority of activities routinely undertaken by hirers in the hall are still prohibited by law and it is clear that for several other users there is no desire to return to a normal routine until early autumn.

The hall is now available for hire but with several restrictions in place. To enable the social distancing guidelines to be met, the Main Hall and kitchen only are available for hire until further notice and all seating will be on plastic chairs. A one-way circuit is operational in the building, with entry via the front (main) entrance only. Hirers are advised to monitor carefully future HM Government announcements regarding restrictions which are to be lifted, or conversely measures which may be re-imposed in this area due to a resurgence of the virus. Advice on which user activities are currently allowed may be obtained from Jackie Lear (07543974751) or from me.

Given that small meetings can now take place, it is timely to hold the delayed 2020 Village Hall AGM which will take place on Tuesday 15th September commencing at 7pm in the Main Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in

our village hall and the way it is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall, either as an elected trustee, co-opted trustee or as a 'friend' of the hall. There are currently vacancies on the management committee (the trustees) and my colleagues and I would really welcome 'new blood' onto the committee to help with the strategic and day-to-day running of the hall. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous management responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. We have fun as trustees and are proud to be responsible for the village hall and its lovely grounds. If you are interested in joining us on the committee please contact me for further information. The deadline for nominations is 10th September.

Although several forthcoming events in the hall have been cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions, two which remain firmly in the calendar are: Mr Bead's annual visit to the hall with his vast selection of jewellery-making materials on Sun 20th September; and an Antiques Fair organised by Nigel Dyson on Sunday 27th September. Both of these events will be advertised locally nearer the time.

Martin Frostick
Secretary
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk



The Parish Council was able to have a face to face meeting on 8th July. Under the Local Government Association advice there was a paragraph which stated if a local council had an identified need to hold a physical meeting, they could consider holding a meeting. I decided there was an identified need - the Hamilton Lodge development was on the agenda. This development is one of the largest developments in the village for a long time and it was felt by some councillors, in view of the local interest, a number of residents may attend the meeting which could have resulted in a problem with social distancing in the Village Hall. The meeting was moved to the Grain Barn at Park Farm, information was placed on social media and noticeboards advising residents of the change of venue. The barn was sufficiently large enough to have social distancing and there was a flow of fresh air.

There were five residents present at the meeting. Representatives from the development company were also in attendance and provided a briefing and answered councillors' and residents' questions. The representative stated the open space and village green would be gifted to the village at the completion of the development together with funding to maintain it.

Members felt the entrance and exit to the site was a problem. It was agreed that I would make contact with our County Councillor to arrange a site meeting along with ECC Highways, the developer and myself to discuss our suggestions and available options. We all felt a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph and possibly a mini roundabout

would assist. Our concerns were not just the entrance but the close proximity of the Village Hall entrances.

We also agreed representation be made to TDC Housing department to reduce the amount of houses proposed for the site as TDC required more affordable houses. The developers agreed with the Parish Council over this course of action.

It was suggested by the Council that the new development opposite the Court House should be named "Little Paddocks". The developers and TDC have accepted our suggestion and a consultation is underway.

Several local residents have called on me and taken some recycling boxes. I do still have a few left which are available to residents, free of charge.

It appears the lockdown measures are being eased. Hopefully our village cricket team will be back in action soon, and our two public houses will be able to reopen.

It appears the Corbeau Seats car rally in parts of our village may well take place again next year. We intend to ask one of the organisers to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Our two village handymen have continued their excellent work and are keeping the village in very good condition. The flower tubs this year are looking very colourful.

Budgens are stopping their shopping collection service on 31st July. David Hardy and family are also stopping their service as there is no longer any call for it.

Planning Determination			
REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
20/00259/FUL Mr L Foster - L K Developments Ltd	Proposed erection of 5no. detached single storey dwellings with detached garages served by new shared private drive off of Frating Road.	Land Between Fieldside and Eltone Frating Road Great Bromley	Approval - Full 12.06.2020 Delegated Decision

Planning Applications		
REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
20/00547/ OUT Daniel Rapson - Colchester Development Ltd	<p>Hybrid Application for Outline application for residential development including: 92 dwellings including up to 30% as affordable housing and access roads (Outline), Demolition of all buildings, All associated amenity space, landscaping, parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, on-site drainage, and infrastructure works including gas and electricity apparatus (Outline), Residential development for 12 dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated access roads including formation of new junction to Parsons Hill (Detail), Formal and informal open space including village green and meadow (Use Class D2) including landscaping, parking, servicing, utilities, footpath links, (Detail).</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council supported the application in general, however would question TDC as to why more affordable units are required when the identified need of 8 units, following a previous survey from the Rural Community Council of Essex, has already been fulfilled. There is also concern on the impact on services such as health and education. The current access point is also cause for concern.</p>	Hamilton Lodge Parsons Hill Great Bromley CO7 7JB
20/00660/ FUL Mr & Mrs Brazier	<p>Variation of Condition 3 of 18/01123/FUL to allow changes to the fenestration of the proposed dwelling, the provision of a balcony and changes to the design of building 1.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.</p>	Bush Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TR

Cont'd

I do hope you are all keeping safe and well in this most unusual year. We have managed to keep in touch to and chat each week with all of our W.I. Members checking if they are well or if they need anything by telephone - enabled by our wonderful Committee who each have four or five members to ring.

Eileen and I actually joined a W.I. Zoom meeting with members from neighbouring W.I.'s in the Estuary Group, friends from St. Osyth, Wivenhoe, Brightlingsea and Elmstead.

It was an interesting experience but unlike anything I had done before. A screen full of faces looking quite different with their very smart hair styles and where was I? Very disconcerting. A very different way of communication!

I have been further reading the booklet "The Bromley Cookbook of Essex recipes 1992" which I told you about last month, not only are there recipes but "Helpful Household Hints" but first I must share a recipe with you.

Grace Gould's Apple Crumble

Stewed apple or apricots	1/2 tsp vanilla
2oz butter	1 beaten egg
1/2 cup of coconut	1 1/2 cups cornflakes or 1 weetabix
pinch of nutmeg	

Place desired amount of stewed apple or apricots in a dish.
 Cream butter and sugar.
 Add egg, coconut, cornflakes, nutmeg and vanilla and mix well.
 Spread over fruit and bake in a moderate oven for 20-30 minutes.
 Serve with Cream

A crunchy top - nice with thickened blackcurrants using a little cornflour - Mmm delicious. Sounds a very interesting and delicious crumble, please let me know if you make it!

Here are some of the "Household Hints".

"A good handful of common soda dissolved in half a bucket of hot water if thrown over a hundred weight of coal and allowed to dry will make it last half as long again!"

"If a damp house has a garden, plant laurel bushes and sunflowers as near the house as possible. This will remedy the dampness!"

"A lump or cube of sugar placed in the biscuit tin will keep the contents crisp for a long time."

"Before driving a nail into a wall soak it in hot water till thoroughly heated then the plaster will not break on entry!"

"Two sugar lumps in a cheese dish stops mould and dryness!"

"A little lemon juice in cold water revives wilting lettuce and greens!" **Cont'd...**

In August we do hope that we may be able to hold a "Get-together Picnic" in my garden. Regulations and restrictions continue to change almost daily so we must still be very careful. Instead of our planned Charity BBQ, as last year, members will be asked to bring their own chair and picnic and socially distance around the garden (or possibly we might meet in Church Meadow).

In September maybe our meeting will be in the Village Hall. (Our last meeting being in early March this year before the lockdown). We are taking little steps, one at a time - planning and assessing all the time in order to keep our members safe.

Please do take care, keep safe and look after yourselves.

<p>Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR Ofsted Inspected Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Charity No. 1136038 Company No. 7099441</p>
---	---

Sadly our setting has now closed.

We have continued to support our children and parents from home and more recently ran some services from 'Ladybirds Preschool' in Thorington to help support the transition of our children to primary school and other preschool settings.

We would like to wish all our children many happy days in their new settings; we shall miss them very much.

Unfortunately we have been unable to hold our usual end of term/leavers picnic and at the time of writing, we are trying to arrange a safe 'meet and greet' session for each child to say our goodbyes.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, carers, friends, staff and committee members – past and present - who over the years have supported and helped us. We really have appreciated you.

Wishing everyone well and stay safe.

Please note:

OUR RECYCLING STATION has CLOSED.

St Georges Primary school collect crisp packets for recycling and are in the process of setting up a biscuit wrapper collection too. Please help support our local school.

<p>CHARITY GARAGE SALE SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 2020 10.00am-1.00pm TETHER'S END, ARDLEIGH RD, GT BROMLEY CO7 7TL ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO ACORN VILLAGE</p>
--



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

tel. 01206 250691 to book an appointment.

Coronavirus – Useful Websites

The following websites may be helpful for you during this pandemic. For the most up-to-date guidance and support you can visit **gov.uk** and for information and advice regarding your mental health please visit **mind.org.uk**.

Surgery COVID-19 Trial

The Surgery is currently taking part in a clinical research trial for COVID-19. This is for patients aged 50 to 64 with an underlying health condition and patients aged 64 and over with no underlying health conditions. If you wish to take part in this trial please visit the Great Bentley Surgery website for further details.

Routine Checks/Screening/Immunisations

It is important that patients are still seen for their routine checks, screening and immunisations. We are still carrying out childhood immunisations, cervical screening, medication reviews by telephone and routine checks for asthma, COPD and diabetes. If you receive an invite for any of these please contact our reception team on

Patient Consent

We often have people contacting us on behalf of family members. Due to patient confidentiality we are unable to discuss information about a patient with anyone else unless we have written consent from them. This includes even just confirming an appointment time or date. Our staff can sometimes experience disgruntled patients as a result, but they would be breaking the law if they complied and are absolutely right to refuse. If there is frequently a need to discuss someone else's details and they are happy for us to do this, they just need to write to us expressing consent to talk to the named family member and we will note this on their record.

Change of Contact Details

If you change your address, email address or phone number, please remember to let us know so that we can update your records. It is really important that we have up-to-date details for you in case we need to contact you.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager



After a three-month absence, the Stour Valley U3A has begun resuming a number of its popular activities:

- **Curry group** members ate at the Zayneb restaurant at Capel St Mary.
- **Five-mile walkers** took a trip to Harwich and enjoyed a stroll along the wide promenades at Dovercourt which allow for social distancing.
- **Country walking group** visited the Tattingstone area.

(Both groups had to forego the traditional pub lunch!)

- **Wine appreciation** group members recently spent a pleasant afternoon in the rambling garden of a member. Everyone brought their own refreshments, glasses and seating to adhere to health and safety guidelines.
- **Canoe and kayak** group is yet to find a suitable tide at Manningtree but hope to venture out before the end of July.
- **French, philosophy and book** groups continue to meet via Zoom.

Artwork and poetry created by members during the lockdown has also been published on our website for all to see <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley/page/106719>

Lectures for July August and September remain cancelled.

For further information contact chairman Graham Manuel gandamauel@gmail.com, secretary Sue Basted susanbasted10@gmail.com or visit our website www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk



Dear Friends of Seven Rivers,

I am trusting you have all been able to meet with most of your family members by now. For me, this was very emotional, while still living with the fear that we could at any time be detailed to lockdown again. The families have been visiting our residents here at Seven Rivers, and keeping everyone safe has not been an easy task. We have two gazebos in the garden with time slots for visitors and everyone has to wear face masks and other PPE equipment. But we have come this far without one resident becoming ill through COVID-19, and we don't need it

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

now as we try and get into the 'new normal'. Jenny, one of our volunteers, who comes in to sing has offered to sing outside but the weather has been against her since she made this offer and looking at the new information received today from our head office it's going to be a while before we are allowed anyone into the main body of the home.

As with all the charities, local and national, income is at an all time low, and we thank the council and individuals for their kind donations at this trying time. Looking at the timeline set out by head office and government restrictions on the numbers of people allowed to gather, our bonfire night will only be small for the

...Cont'd
residents of Seven Rivers.

I don't think we will be able to staff with their families as that would take us over government allowance of 30. But I will give details of the date when fixed as it might differ from normal, but maybe a few of you will be able to view from afar, or keep your pets safe. This is possibly going to be the case for our Christmas Market also, but news of that in the October edition.

At the end of June we all enjoyed our lockdown Strawberry Cream Tea. I organised a 'who am I?' quiz that was enjoyed by staff and residents alike. It was amazing how Florence Nightingale looked like Queen Victoria when she got older. I am looking to have another BBQ at the beginning of August if the weather holds, I will keep you informed.

I keep forgetting to thank those of you who gave us plants of flowers and vegetables. They are all growing and our residents veg patch looks great, but the weeds are still winning. I'm sorry but we only have limited time that we can devote to gardening. Normally one or two of my volunteers would have been out weeding and helping with all that is needed to keep everything going. Once we are fully open and we can get our volunteers back in the home, I can see me organising a big clear and weed party, many hands make light work and all that, but 10 people weeding for 2 hours against one person for 2 hours a week - you gardeners don't need to work that out with the lovely sunny days and the rain in the evening.

When we open to volunteers again I will let you know.

I talk about volunteering a lot and I can't say how important they are to our home and how everyone feels what a great job they do. We have all missed them walking around the home, we also have a dog who visits and everyone has missed him, I think some have missed Benson (the dog) more than their family, he is a

small cross breed poodle/jack russell who just waits until someone is able to lift him onto a lap for a cuddle. He has been coming in since he was a puppy and never once jumped up onto a lap, but he has made a mess of a couple of foam dice that we use in a game we play.

Volunteering is one of the great things in life, all the Parish councillors are volunteers, as are a lot of other organizations who rely on their support to help run all types of things, scouts, brownies, D o E awards, we all benefit from people who give their time freely without complaining. While I get paid by Leonard Cheshire, I have volunteered in my home village. I have been a Parish Councillor, and a member of the village hall committee, so I am aware that it's not always easy to volunteer. And volunteers are always needed. Over the last few months with COVID-19 more people than ever have volunteered. I'm hoping this will continue, the old, frail and even just young lonely people who need someone to chat to.

Volunteering at Seven Rivers might not be the thing for you but there are going to be lots of other opportunities for volunteers and looking at the outcome from COVID-19 looks like a lot of people may be made redundant. I'm sure some would benefit from doing some volunteering work. They have been restructuring Leonard Cheshire and I myself have been made redundant from my post as volunteer coordinator. This has not only been hard but also upsetting, but I hope to be able to continue to work here for the time being as an activities helper. But if not, I will be looking for something to do with my time while looking for employment so I will be volunteering. I hope to start my activities role in September. But I will still write on behalf of Seven Rivers, so sorry you will have to put up with my ramblings on for a bit longer!

Take care and continue to keep safe
Liz x

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

The Council is continuing to hold its meetings via Zoom at the present time. This is working out quite well and, if any parishioners do wish to join in, then a reminder to please email the Council and we will send the logging in details over. If for whatever reason you can't join in the online meeting, then please email over (or drop in writing to the Clerk's House) anything you would like raised and, if its within the two weeks before the meeting, it will be added to the agenda and discussed, otherwise it will be added under correspondence.

The Council has found an artist to

refurbish the paintwork on the Village Sign. We hope this will be completed within a month and then we can organise for it to be reinstalled.

We are still looking for a replacement for our Footpath Warden position. If anyone is interested in looking after the footpaths around the Village and reporting problems with them to the Council then please email us.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 17th September at 7.30 pm. (Venue details will be confirmed nearer the time)

HAMILTON LODGE UPDATE

As agreed at our last Parish Council meeting, along with ECC Cllr Guglielmi I met representatives from Hamilton Lodge, together with an ECC Highways officer, Chris Stoneham, at the entrance to Hamilton Lodge during July.

There was a very informative discussion regarding the entrance and the number of properties.

I explained the Parish Council would prefer a better/safer entrance to the site. Chris Stoneham was very receptive to the idea of a small roundabout being located near to the entrance and a traffic management plan would also include an entrance to the village hall. The village hall car park could be laid with tarmac and

generally made much better. Full details to be supplied for discussion at a future Parish Council meeting.

Regarding the number of properties, the developers are receptive to reducing the number. This would entail a discussion with TDC planners and housing department. I made it very clear the number of houses needs to be reduced. Cllr Guglielmi suggested arranging a meeting with Cllr Paul Honeywood, TDC Portfolio Holder for Housing.

I would like to thank Cllr Gugliemi for his help and assistance in arranging this meeting and the discussion that took place regarding both items.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

OBITUARY - ANN FAIRLEY

12th March 1935 - 22nd May 2020

Ann Fairley (nee Seldon) was born at Home Farm, Little Gaddesden, near Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire. Her father was a Chartered Surveyor and Land Agent who managed 2,000 acres for Sir William Cooper. As Berkhamsted was close to Luton and Watford, which were subject to German bombing during the war, Ann and her brother Richard were moved to stay with their Aunt near Liskeard in Cornwall for safety. It was there that Ann developed her love for animals and learnt the fundamentals of milking and pig keeping. When the danger of bombing had receded, the family returned to Berkhamsted.

When the Cooper estate was sold her father worked for Strutt and Parker and subsequently for the Ministry of Agriculture. The family moved to the Old Rectory at Faulkbourne near Witham and in 1948 to Collingwood Road in Witham. Ann attended St



Ann's School in Chelmsford and thereafter St Phillips Priory. These were Catholic schools, chosen for their quality, although Ann was a devout Anglican all her life.

Ann found employment at Lloyds Bank in Witham and became involved in the Witham Young Farmers' Club. The Club kept pigs for fattening behind Freebourne Farm in Witham High Street and there was a rota for members of the club to take turns to feed them. Ann arriving at the bank having just given eight pigs their breakfast caused quite some amusement.

In those days many of the Essex Young Farmers Clubs held dances and it was at a Scottish Dance at Grange Farm, Coggeshall that Ann met Henry, who farmed there. He already had two dancing companions, one for ballroom and one for Scottish, but it was Ann he fell for. They were engaged in May 1958 and married in the November at St Nicholas, Witham, where Ann had sung for years in the choir. They had so much in common and her love of animals and farming helped them to 61 years of happy marriage.

They had three young children, Margaret, Elizabeth and Andrew, when they moved to Park Farm, Great Bromley in 1966. They remembered arriving in the village to a warm welcome, with a visit from neighbouring farmer Dick Hayward who soon roped Henry into the Parish Council to save Hare Green Playing Field, and Reverend James Ransom, who wanted to be sure they would send their children to St George's C of E primary school, which they did.

Cont'd...

...Cont'd

Mrs Joan Landon had heard that Ann had been a Guide Commissioner in Witham and lost no time in getting her involved with the Girl Guides here. Another visitor was Mrs Lorna Brown who soon had Ann on the Meals-on-Wheels rota. Henry would help load the metal container, with hot charcoals in the base, into the car and she would drive around delivering meals with her children, until each was old enough to start school.

In 1967 there was tragedy when she lost a fourth child at full term. It took a long time to get over this sadness, greatly helped by the peace and solitude she found at Saint Mary's Church in Little Bromley.

When Ann was 17, her father had died from a heart condition, which meant the bereaved family could not pay the mortgage, moved into a council house, and knew hard times. (They didn't have a phone so Ann could only arrange dates with Henry from the bank.) That was one reason she was always quick to help others who needed a hand. This ranged from simple acts of kindness, to giving lifts and helping serve tea at the Friendship Club, to being a trustee on the Poorlands Charity for over 30 years. A sitting free tenant at the farm would cycle to The Bricklayers in Little Bentley on a Saturday, and Ann worried so much about him getting home over the main Harwich Road, at his great age, that she insisted on driving him there and fetching him again at closing time.

Church was a very significant part of her life. She had Henry attending more than he ever had before and steered her children on that path where she could. Ann was on the Parochial Church Council for many years and, with Henry, organised the distribution of

the Bromley Messenger magazine for three decades. She was a long-serving church warden at both Great and Little Bromley and then a founder member and treasurer of the Friends of Little Bromley Church. When the Parish was interregnum, the priest came from Colchester and Ann gladly gave him breakfast between the morning services. He said he would like to go outside to smoke his pipe, but Ann loved the smell of pipe tobacco and insisted he should stay indoors.

She loved the farming life, and adored all the animals on the farm, and got involved as necessary, including castrating piglets. She always had a Jack Russell dog and kept geese as pets. One time a dance friend told her about a peacock that had turned up in Colchester where its calls annoyed some townfolk who wanted it culled. It was enticed into a garage with digestive biscuits and Ann drove home with a peacock as her passenger! The bird enjoyed several happy years at the farm until a fox took it.



...Cont'd

...Cont'd

Ann had a great many interests and activities and joined the Great Bromley WI in the 1980s. She loved flower arranging and, before she was married, she had won prizes for this at the Essex Show, and later made countless arrangements from her own garden to decorate the churches. One of her proudest achievements, following several years as Secretary, was to become President of the Colchester Caledonian Society where she was delighted to donate the surplus funds to charity each year. The one thing she would not do was politics. Whenever

Henry came home from a frustrating Council meeting, and asked for "more than a double" of Scotch, she would chuckle and say, "And you wonder why I don't wish to get involved?"

Ann always looked for the good in people and would never dwell on the bad. That does not mean she didn't get irritated with people at times. One winter she clambered over a grassy bank to avoid a snowed in path, to deliver a hot meal to a person who then moaned, "I was supposed to have my lunch at 12 sharp." Henry heard all about that when she got home!



Everything Ann did was with good humour and enthusiasm. A farmer's wife through and through, she was involved in all aspects of village life and was a loving and supportive mother to her children and a doting grandmother.

In recent times Ann suffered painful feet and legs that curtailed such an active life, and she prayed for an end from the onset of her dementia. Her prayers were answered with a quick release to meet her maker.

* * *

The family intend to hold a memorial service for Ann when such gatherings are permitted.

GET INVOLVED ONLINE WITH GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY

The Great Bromley and Little Bromley village websites have been refreshed in April 2020, so I thought this a good time to share a list of websites and main social media pages for our villages.

Great Bromley village website

www.greatbromley.org.uk with links to most village media pages including:

- ◆ Parish Council website www.gbpc.org.uk
- ◆ Village Hall website www.greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk

Little Bromley village website

www.littlebromley.org.uk incorporating the Parish Council pages and with links to most village media pages.

Some other village organisations, pubs, and businesses have a website or social media; you can find links to many of them in the village websites and in The Messenger.

Social Media

You can pick up links to these via the village websites or your search engine.

Facebook

Great Bromley Community
Little Bromley Community
Great Bromley Village Hall
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Twitter

Great Bromley Parish Council
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Next Door

www.nextdoor.co.uk is a free neighbourhood website which allows members to sign up by postcode to share information about their local communities. Several locals use this, and Little Bromley Parish Council use it for their community messaging.

Mailing Lists

e-Mailing lists exist for *Friends of Little Bromley Church* and *Great Bromley Church*. You can refer to the websites and sign up to hear about news and events.

Hugh Frostick



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH GREAT BROMLEY



www.greatbromley.ork.uk

Church re-opening - At last we are able to say a real (and not just virtual) "Welcome to St George's".

The churchwardens have completed the Covid-19 risk assessment and found that we can comply safely with the guidelines. There will be some minor changes to the way of doing things but don't worry, it will mostly feel the same. We are not allowed to sing hymns together yet but there will be live organ music.

Public services started again on 12th July. Thank you to our priests, Sally, Stephen, and Laura who are leading the services in the coming months.

Those of you in the vulnerable category, please consider carefully the latest government guidelines. For the moment, we hope to record some of our services in audio, for distribution to those who wish it on YouTube or CD.

Vacancy - Our Vicar, Revd Canon Simon Heron, has at last been allowed to leave for his new post at Cheltenham, and we wish him well.

There is now a 'Vacancy' and the PCCs of the Benefice of Lawford, The Bromleys, and Little Bentley had a zoom meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon on July 2nd. We were already aware that the Diocese of Chelmsford was in financial difficulty even before coronavirus struck. We were not surprised to hear that the Lawford post will not be filled, but we were told that the second Harwich post will not be filled either. This means a reduction from 6 to 4 stipendiary posts in the Harwich Deanery. We don't know yet how the parishes will be re-grouped. The churchwardens of our three parishes are meeting regularly to plan for the vacancy over the next few months and for the future.

Revd Canon Stephen Carter - Canon Stephen recently retired to Lawford and has kindly offered to help with services in the benefice. We gave him a distanced but very warm St George's welcome at the Parish Eucharist on July 26th.

Don't hesitate to ask if you need any information.

Best wishes, Churchwardens

Opening Times and Services for August - Services and opening times are subject to change so please check latest info on the church page at greatbromley.org.uk

- 2nd - Holy Communion (BCP) 9.15am and church open to visitors 10.15-5.30pm
- 9th - Parish Eucharist 10.30am and church open to visitors 11.30am-5.30pm
- 16th - Evensong (BCP) 6.30pm
- 23rd - Parish Eucharist 10.30am and church open to visitors 11.30am-5.30pm
- 30th - Parish Eucharist 10.30am and church open to visitors 11.30am-5.30pm